

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

EO 05-08

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO CREATE THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER CONSERVATION.

WHEREAS, the ivory-billed woodpecker, North America's largest woodpecker, was once found in the swampy forests in the Southeast and lower Mississippi Valley states, from Texas to Florida;

WHEREAS, ivory-bills have long been feared extinct; while there have been sporadic, unconfirmed sightings through the years, until very recently the last confirmed sighting of an ivory-bill in the United States was in Northeastern Louisiana in 1943; and,

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2005, came the announcement that the ivory-billed woodpecker has been found in an area of Eastern Arkansas known as the "Big Woods" and located near the Cache River and Bayou DeView; and,

WHEREAS, this announcement has been greeted with great excitement around the world; and,

WHEREAS, this discovery will be beneficial to Arkansas and Arkansans; for example, the interest in the ivory-bill will promote tourism and renewed interest in preserving the natural heritage our state enjoys; and,

WHEREAS, the federal government, through the U.S. Department of the Interior, has pledged financial support for conservation efforts to ensure the survival of the ivory-bill; and,

WHEREAS, because of its many facets, this issue falls within the purview of multiple agencies, boards and commissions of the State of Arkansas; and,

WHEREAS, a mechanism to coordinate the activities of these agencies, boards and commissions would be beneficial;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, DO HEREBY ORDER:

Section 1. Establishment. The Governor's Task Force on Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Conservation is hereby established to coordinate the activities of the respective agencies, boards and commissions in responding to the rediscovery of the ivory-bill in Arkansas; to promote and support public and private efforts in this endeavor; to develop a comprehensive, long-range plan of action to promote and support conservation, tourism, and regulation efforts; and to serve as the state's liaison to national and state organizations that support its mission.

Section 2. Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the Directors, or designees thereof, of the following: the Department of Arkansas Heritage; the Department of Environmental Quality; the Department of Parks and Tourism; the Forestry Commission; the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Upon the effective date of Act 1978 of 2005, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, or the designee thereof, will replace the individual occupying the Forestry Commission slot on the Task Force.

Section 3. Officers. The Director, or the designee thereof, of the Department of Arkansas Heritage shall serve as the Chairman of the Task Force. The Director, or the designee thereof, of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission shall serve as Vice Chairman.

Section 4. Effective date. This Order shall be effective immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed at the Capitol in Little Rock on the 24th day of May in the Year of our Lord, two thousand and five.



GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

SECRETARY OF STATE CHARLIE DANIELS